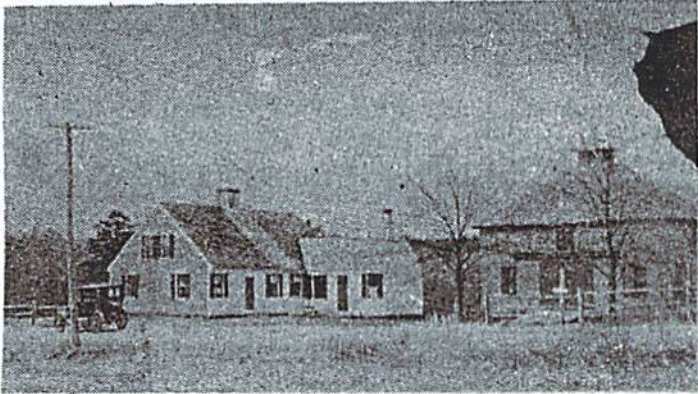


RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD HOUSES

By Mabel R. Bates

Beginning at the Marshfield line, on Enterprise St., I'll try to bring to mind houses in parts of Duxbury and the people who lived in them (some still do).

Lucius Peterson, Sr., and family lived in the first house, which was built by Frank Ames. Jabez Peterson (Lucius' father) bought it. No one seems to know how old it is, but Lucius was 12 when he came there to live. After he grew up, he married Bessie Soule of Tremont St. They had seven children: Alton, Elmer, Mildred, Sidney, Lucius, Jr., Eden and Merle. They raised the most wonderful vegetables and sold them to customers around town. They also had a stand near the house. Their strawberries were out of this world.



OLD SHERMAN HOUSE ON ENTERPRISE ST.



SAME HOUSE AFTER REMODELING

I visited Mrs. Peterson often, and was very fond of the family. Alton and Elmer have passed away. Mildred married George Phillips. Eden, Sidney, Merle and Lucius, Jr., as well as Mildred, are living. After the parents died the heirs sold the place to Martin Baker of Marshfield, and he sold it to the Ralph Houghtons, who still live there.

The Herman Delano house is next on the same side of the street. It was built in the 1700's by a Mr. Arnold, and the land across the street is known as the Arnold land. A family by the name of Sprague lived there, and George Sprague, who later lived farther on, was born there, according to relatives. I remember a tenant named Michael Ryan, who moved later to the old Ford Boarding House near Ford's Store, the oldest department store in the U.S. He worked for the Fords. Warren Prince was a tenant, and I also remember a Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leavitt living there. We always called Mrs. Leavitt, Melvina. I never saw her inside the house or outside without a sunbonnet on. She was quite a naturalist. Miss Ruth Delano built a house from the old barn on the place, and as it was put together with wooden pegs, I should imagine it was built before nails were available. I am now going up Cord Wood Path, off Enterprise St. to the Herman Delano, Sr., farm, where the old homestead still stands.

This house was built in 1685, and was Mr. Delano's birthplace, and possibly his father's. I have spent many happy hours here. It is a beautiful place and the Delano family all loved it; in fact, they have a reunion there every summer. I attended Mr. and Mrs. Delano's Golden Wedding Anniversary and remember a few lines some relative wrote about it. It went like this:

"Once water from the spring was brought, now a pressure tank is found. This all goes to show that the world is going around."

I think the Delanos had seven children: Leavitt; Mary Manning, Emily Osborn, Dr. Charles, Dr. Herman, Helen, Ruth and Ray. One of Mr. Delano's grandchildren (Philip) and his wife Henrietta live there now. Philip came to live with his grandparents and attended Partridge Academy, then left for a veterinary college in Pennsylvania. He is now chairman of our board of selectmen and assessors.

HISTORICAL HOUSES